

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039198

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, RP

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING PLOT

REF: MANILA 2244

1. DURING FEBRUARY 17 CALL BY STEVE PSINAKIS ON HABIB, LATTER INFORMED PSINAKIS THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO ALLEGATION THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD TOLD MARCOS THAT PSINAKIS WAS LEADING ASSASSINATION AND KIDNAP PLOT. IN FACT, HABIB SAID, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN HAD REPORTED THAT MARCOS DOES NOT BELIEVE PSINAKIS IS INVOLVED IN THAT TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

2. PSINAKIS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE REASSURANCE AND SAID THAT HE KNOWS THAT MARCOS DOES NOT BELIEVE IN PSINAKIS' INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE NOVEMBER HE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INFORMAL THREATS, NONE OF WHICH HE HAS TAKEN SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THE LATEST
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THREAT, MADE BY MEANS OF THE FEBRUARY 3 TELEPHONE CALL

BY EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., HE DOES TAKE SERIOUSLY.

3. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD SOUGHT POLICE PROTECTION, PSINAKIS SAID THAT FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF SIMILAR FALSE CHARGES AGAINST HIM IN INGLES REPORT, HE HAD WRITTEN TO ATTORNEY GENERAL, SEEKING EXPEDITIOUS FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE MIJARES BRIBERY CHARGES, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD ALSO CLEAR HIS NAME, AND ADVICE REGARDING HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY. THE REPLY HAD BEEN DISTRESSING AND REFLECTED THE ARROGANT ATTITUDE OF THE FBI AGENTS ASSIGNED TO THE INVESTIGATION. ESSENTIALLY, IT STATED THAT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEITHER EXONERATES NOR CONDEMNES INDIVIDUALS IN CASES OF THIS SORT, NOR DOES IT PROVIDE PERSONAL BODYGUARDS.

4. HABIB REPLIED THAT THIS MATTER WAS OUTSIDE OF STATE DEPARTMENT'S JURISDICTION. PSINAKIS SAID HE REALIZED THIS AND DID NOT SEEK OR EXPECT ANY STATE DEPARTMENT ACTION WITH REGARD TO HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

5. PSINAKIS ADDED THAT EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., HAS BEEN KEPT IN ISOLATION SINCE THE FEBRUARY 3 TELEPHONE CALL AND THAT HIS WIFE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT HIM OR OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING HIS WELFARE.

6. REF PARA 1, REFTTEL, WE ARE MYSTIFIED BY YOUR STATEMENT THAT ALLEGATION OF PSINAKIS INVOLVEMENT IN KIDNAP PLOT ORIGINATED WITH AFP G-2 GENERAL PAZ, SINCE ALLEGATION WAS ORIGINALLY BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HERE. EMBASSY CLAIMS ORIGINAL SOURCE OF CHARGES WAS SERGIO OSMENA, JR., WHO INFORMED LOS ANGELES CONSUL GENERAL WHO IN TURN ALERTED WASHINGTON EMBASSY. IF ALLEGATION DID ORIGINATE WITH GENERAL PAZ, AS EMBASSY STATES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY SURFACED IN LOS ANGELES, ITS CREDIBILITY, ALREADY EXTREMELY LOW, WOULD APPEAR TO BE FATALLY DAMAGED. PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR STATEMENT THAT ALLEGATION ORIGINATED WITH GENERAL PAZ.

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